

Keeping You Posted

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Court Rules Against SEC Filing Revisions

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia has struck down revised Securities and Exchange Commission regulations curtailing resubmission of shareholder resolutions to annual meetings.

UC Board for World Ministries and four other mainline religious bodies challenged the changes that would have limited their ability to resubmit resolutions on corporate social responsibility.

The churches held the SEC had not given proper notice of the proposed changes, as required by law. The SEC, they charged, had not provided details of the planned revisions or allowed enough time for public response to be submitted and analysed.

Judge June L. Green agreed and ruled the SEC notification "revealed nothing specific to which the public could comment."

Under the revised rules, vote support needed for shareholder resolution resubmission was raised from 3% to 5% for a second submission and from 6% to 8% for a third. The 10% support required for a fourth submission was retained. Resolutions can only be resubmitted three years after the initial presentation.

"Not even a clue was given as to whether the agency proposed the percentages to be raised, lowered or maintained," Judge Green said.

Judge Green noted that while the SEC received some feedback, little came from shareholders who would have been most affected by the changes. With proper notice, she said, more of those likely to oppose the revisions would have responded.

UCBWM world issues secretary Audrey Smock does not expect the SEC to appeal the case, but believes the issue may resurface.

"What's more likely to happen is that they'll go through the rulemaking process another time. But, hopefully, they will go through the procedure properly and give us time to respond," she said.

Dr. Smock said the decision shows that church agencies willing to appeal federal policy have a real chance of reversing it.

Ben Chavis Elected CRJ Head

Saying his election signals that the UCC "takes its commitment to racial and social justice seriously," Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. was unanimously chosen by the Commission for Racial Justice commissioners to succeed Charles E. Cobb as executive director. The election took place last month. Dr. Chavis will assume his new office on Jan. 1.

The weekend meeting which saw Dr. Chavis elected also included a gala formal "national tribute" to the ministry of Dr. Charles E. Cobb, CRJ's executive director for all of its 19 years. Besides electing Dr. Chavis,

CRJ commissioners voted to name Dr. Cobb "executive director emeritus."

Dr. Chavis has served on the CRJ staff since 1970, as director of community organization for the North Carolina-Virginia field office, director of the Washington, DC office and, for the past four years, deputy director in New York, responsible for CRJ's national program coordination.

In the 1970's, as the so-called "leader" of the Wilmington Ten, Dr. Chavis unjustly spent 4½ years in North Carolina prisons, a situation chosen by Amnesty International as its first official political prisoner case in the U.S. On Dec. 4, 1980, the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the Wilmington Ten's convictions, clearing their records and their names.

Declaring that because of Charles Cobb's leadership CRJ is generally acknowledged to have "the strongest foundation of any denominational-related national organization in the field of racial justice," Dr. Chavis added that he intends "to erect on this foundation a strong and viable, effective and efficient, professional and relevant national agency." Dr. Chavis' administration will:

- concentrate on a greater utilization of the media to proclaim the Gospel message of liberation;
- help sponsor community-based economic development projects within Black and poor communities;
- promote the research and publication of books "protecting the true history of our people and for uplifting the Black community";
- build strong national networks of grassroots community organizations and organize leadership development training programs; and
- establish a national forum for the explication of liberation theology in North America.

Evan Golder



CRJ head Charles E. Cobb (l) confers with executive director-elect Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

UCBHM Annual Meeting: Board Takes Action on Divestment, Personnel

At its annual meeting in Louisville, KY, Nov. 1-4, the UC Board for Homeland Ministries voted to divest itself of stock in companies doing business in South Africa and set one year for divestment. There were no dissenting votes.

"Companies in which we are part owners and which trade with South Africa are supporting an evil social system," C. Shelby Rooks, UCBHM executive vice president, told directors, who acknowledged potential loss of long-term investment income from the Board's \$40 million-plus equities portfolio but insisted that strong measures were needed to send a clear signal to South Africa.

Besides divestment, the directors call

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THEOLOGY FORUM:

Only Begotten, But Not Only Beloved Child

By Linda Harle-Mould

"Unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called . . . Joshua." When the call came inviting me to write this article, I was in the beginning days of maternity leave. "Incarnation" became the logical theme suggested to me because of my recent involvement in the "creation" process. My involvement was more creative than the caller knew. My new son, Joshua, had been born four months before to another woman living halfway around the world. Our family, like God's, is being built by adoption. In this season of preparing to celebrate again the birth of God's "biological" child, Jesus of Nazareth, it is only natural that I would be moved to contemplate as well the meaning of incarnation for all of us who are God's children by adoption.

So many expectations of the baby born in Bethlehem are renewed each year during the Christmas season. Jesus is expected to be wise and just, merciful and humble, faithful and powerful, all because of his unique relationship with his "Abba." How easy it is for us to allow him to carry all of that baggage by himself, and to assume that he can do

what would be unrealistic for us because he is, after all, God's son.

Yet, "see what love Abba has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (I John 3:1) If we take at all seriously the scriptural promises that tell us that God has indeed adopted us, we must also take seriously the implications of that adoption for our lives and for our relationship with God. This powerful truth is revealed to us incarnate in human experience. Only the adoptive parent can fully understand the depth of love and yearning implied in Romans 8:19 that speaks of the entire creation waiting with eager longing for the adoption of the children of God. Their experience shows us, too, how clearly chosen children grow in the image and spirit of their adoptive parents, becoming more reflective of their new parents than of the circumstances of their birth. Perhaps most important for our consideration is the fact that adoptive children are equally loved with biological children, and in the face of that great love, the circumstances of birth fade into insignificance. The child

of birth and the child of adoption become the same through the power of the parents' love.

The church is God's family by adoption. The words "brother" and "sister" that we toss around so easily should not be mere symbols, but expressions of deep truth, acknowledgement that we are the incarnation of our brother Jesus in today's world. We are family, God's family, growing together in the image of our Parent.

At the time of Jesus' birth, a star shown in the heavens and choirs of angels heralded the news. Jesus is God's only child in a unique and mysterious way. We need to celebrate that unique gift in this holy season. But we, too, are equally precious and equally, although differently, God's children. As we celebrate the birthday of our brother Jesus, let us look beyond the stars and angels to see that the same loving celebration was felt in the heavens when God danced with joy on the day of our adoption.

Linda Harle-Mould is chaplain at Hood College and Minister of Family Life at Grace UCC in Frederick, MD. She is a wife, mother of two adopted children, a singer, actress, and creative worship and retreat leader.

Priorities Report

Justice and Peace

Recent peace- and justice-related programs at First Congregational Church in Indianapolis have included a Sunday-morning adult forum series titled "Liberty and Justice for All," a winter-long study of Latin American theological and political issues and a Lenten discussion series using the book, *The Risk of The Cross: Christian Discipleship in the Nuclear Age*. "Peace is a very high priority here—though unfortunately not with everyone," says Nancy Dickinson, the church's Christian education director. "But three or four years ago, when we began our annual short series on peace, only a handful of people came—and interest has surely grown."

Family Life

Guilt about placing a parent in a nursing home and the stress of caring for both children and aging parents were discussed in a workshop called "The Sandwiched Generation" recently at Christ Church, Bethlehem, PA. The participants, who viewed and discussed videotaped interviews of families feeling a multigenerational crunch, now plan to start a support group.

The Southern Conference's Tuesday Clergy Study group this fall examined the topic, "Ministering to Families by Building a Healthy Church Family." Through presentations, discussions and learning activities in

their six weekly sessions, the ministers focused on three areas: family systems, theory and process; the congregation as a family system; and ministering to family systems through the church system.

Spiritual Renewal

Two spiritually oriented events occurred in the Washington North Idaho Conference in November. A regional gathering of the Fellowship of Charismatic Christians in the UCC at Camp N-Sid-Sen, Coeur d'Alene, ID, was followed by the Western Washington Renewal Conference at Lowell Community Church, Everett, WA.

The latter, sponsored jointly by the charismatic fellowship and the Biblical Witness Fellowship in the UCC, included sessions on individual and corporate "renewal."

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

UCC youths in Puerto Rico publish a quarterly bulletin, *Copaz*, dealing with peace issues concerning them: militarism and U.S. Army presence on the island, the draft, nuclear weapons and the military-dependent economy. Also, representatives of UCC youth groups on the island recently gathered for a series of events examining the biblical foundations of peace. The resource they developed, "National Biblical Debate," is available in Spanish from the Puerto Rico Conference Office.

Upcoming Events

National gatherings on computers and parish ministries are planned for early 1986.

The Computer Applications for Ministry Conference is set for March 6-8, 1986 at the Airport Hyatt Hotel, Los Angeles, CA. The conference, on the churches' use of computer technology, is being organized by the Joint Strategy and Action Committee an interdenominational body. Keynote speaker, Dr. David Lochhead, chairs the United Church of Canada's committee on small computer use and is professor of Systematic Theology at Vancouver School of Theology. Workshops include "Computer Assisted Telecommunications in Local Congregations," "Buying a Computer System" and "Square One Basics." For information: JSAC/CAMCON, 475 Riverside Dr. Suite 450, New York, NY 10015.

There are still some registration slots open for Consultation XI on Parish Ministry, Jan. 6-10 in Orlando, FL. With 480 ministers currently registered, the conference, themed "Sunday Morning," is expected to be the largest gathering of UCC clergy to date. For registration information call (305) 645-5458.

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upon corporations to discontinue all activities that support the South African government.

A second resolution endorsed the sanctuary movement as a valid Christian witness and called for support, including legal help, of local churches engaged in a sanctuary ministry. There was sharp debate, however, with almost a third of the directors voting "No." Currently 14 UCC churches offer sanctuary, 13 to Central American refugees and one to South African.

Directors also approved Dr. Rooks' proposed reorganization of the Board from six divisions to three. Elected general secretaries are Robert L. Burt, division of evangelism and local church development and Theodore H. Erickson, American Missionary Association, each of whom served previously in similar capacities. Elected to general secretary of the division of education and publication is Ansley Coe Throckmorton, pastor of Hammond St. Congregational UCC, Bangor, ME. Long active on UCC boards and committees, she received the Antoinette Brown Award at the 1981 General Synod. She is currently vice president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and a member of the UCC Executive Council. Tapped to be secretary of research and evaluation is Marjorie A. Royle, a psychologist with the Navy personnel research and development center in San Diego, CA.

In other business, directors adopted a 1986 budget of \$7.2 million and agreed to spend an extra \$200,000 over four years to beef up youth and young adult work.

UCC Co-President Wagner Dies at 85

James E. Wagner, 85, former UCC co-president, died Oct. 19 in Wincote, PA after a long illness.

A one-time newspaper reporter and columnist, Dr. Wagner played a key role in the 1957 union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, of which he was president, and the Congregational Christian Churches to become the UCC. Dr. Wagner and the late Fred Hoskins, representing the Congregational body, served as co-presidents from 1957-1961.

After the UCC constitution was adopted in 1961, Dr. Wagner was named vice president of Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA. He retired in 1968, but continued to serve as a consultant to the institution.

"The UCC is the strong, ecumenical church it is today because of the vigorous leadership of Jim Wagner during those beginning years," eulogized President Avery D. Post. "A peerless administrator, he had the rare gift of being able to reach out to people at all levels of society."

Rooks Reemphasizes Christian Education

"I'm concerned to re-emphasize Christian education as a major, major issue in Christian life—not just in the organization of churches, but as a foundation for the way we live."

The speaker is C. Shelby Rooks, executive vice president of UC Board for Homeland Ministries. Last spring, shock waves rippled across the UCC as Dr. Rooks' reorganization proposal included not recommending a number of Christian educators for re-election to his staff. By the end of General Synod in July, some of this concern was assuaged, as he spent endless hours in conversation with Christian educators, pastors and lay leaders about his vision for Christian education in the UCC.

"I think the church has some obligation to provide educational resources and experiences for Christians at every stage of life and in all settings of life," he says today. "The purpose of that is to empower individual Christians for Christian discipleship for faith and for life."

What does this mean for the church school and its curriculum?

The UCC will continue to participate in the Joint Educational Development partnership, using the four current curriculum strands until they run out in 1988. Beyond 1988, JED will produce two strands. The first, a Bible Discovery Series, will be coproduced by the Presbyterians and the UCC. The second will be a new Discipleship Series. If this series can be developed ecumenically to deal with problems of UCC identity, then UCBHM

will probably cooperate in producing and using it. If not, UCBHM has received permission from JED to reprint the Living the Word Series for two years (1988-1989) as a backup while UCBHM develops a curriculum that focuses on the UCC and the needs of its people.

Dr. Rooks plans that the newly-elected general secretary of UCBHM's division of education and publication, Ansley Coe Throckmorton, will spend a major portion of next year generating conversations in different conferences among Christian educators, pastors and lay people about what the curriculum design ought to be in order to meet specific UCC needs.

Other questions he has concern programs and resources for older adults and for young adults, whether single or part of couples, in school or working. "I hear a lot about how these people are used around the church," Dr. Rooks observes, "and almost nothing about how the church serves them programatically." Then he adds: "And I don't want staff in New York simply making these decisions. I want broad feedback from around the church about what we ought to produce."

He hopes to get this feedback from Ms. Throckmorton's discussions and from a proposed study of Christian education in eight Protestant denominations (including the UCC). This would be conducted by Search, Inc. of Minneapolis, which did the "Ministry in America" study a few years ago.

Pension Boards Offer Retirement Seminars



Robert Kemper (c), PB consultant joins seminar's youngest and oldest participants: Robert Cassels (l), St. Pauls UCC, Nutley, NJ, and Walton Moffitt, Riverhead, NY.

For the past three years, the Pension Boards have been offering pre-retirement seminars for interested clergy (50+) as UCC conferences invite PB staff in to hold them.

In October, 23 UCC clergy and spouses gathered at the UCC retreat center at Wappingers Falls, NY to learn how to make retirement "successful." Leaders for the event included Robert Kemper, UCC pastor in Western Springs, IL, and Edmund Tortora, newly-elected PB secretary.

Mr. Kemper described a minister's pension not as a gift, but as deferred income. The recommended dues levels are designed so that a typical minister who has been in the fund for 40 years, contributed fully and never dropped out, should receive a retirement income of about 80% of the last year's salary plus housing allowance.

Participants attended sessions on learning how to read the financial printout sent to each member at the end of the year, on Social Security, on learning how to make creative use of retirement time and on obtaining housing. There is a 10-year waiting list at existing UCC clergy retirement facilities.

Participants also received a 61 page three-ring binder of resources to aid in pre-retirement planning.

According to Mr. Tortora, the UCC pension plan offers more options than most other plans. For example, at the time of retirement one can withdraw 10% of the value of one's portfolio to acquire housing, to travel, etc.

To determine when such a seminar will be held in your area, contact your conference minister.

Job Opportunities

The Ohio Conference seeks a Leadership Development Minister and Northwest Ohio Association Associate Minister. The two-fold job is based in Tiffin, OH. Ordained UCC ministers apply by Jan. 1 to Mr. William C. Bradish, Chairperson, Ohio Conference Search Committee, 41 Crowell Road Columbus, Ohio 43214.

The Connecticut Conference seeks a minister-in-residence to oversee and develop clergy renewal programs for its Ingraham/Peck Conference Center. Ordained ministers apply by Jan. 1 to the Rev. Gary Davis, 125 Sherman St. Hartford CT 06105.

UCBHM Seeks Project for Divorce Ministry Grants

Forty thousand dollars is available for projects on ministry with divorcing persons and their families from UC Board for Homeland Ministries.

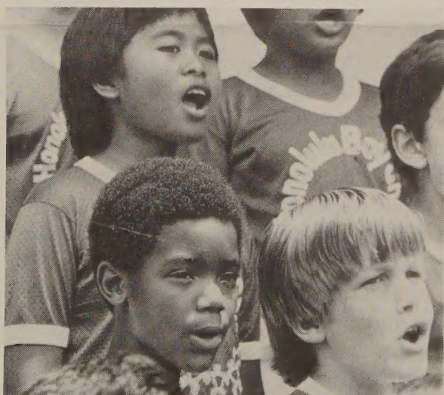
Projects should be innovative and have the possibility of producing resources for the entire church. Projects related to divorced couples and their children and parents will be considered.

Application deadline is June 15, 1986. Proposed guidelines are available through the Family Life Office, UCBHM, 132 W. 31 St., New York, NY 10001.

RECOMMENDED

MEDIA & VALUES's November issue focuses on violence and sexual violence in the mass media. It includes a summary report by the National Council of Churches' study committee on violence and sexual violence as well as columns reflecting on the problem.

Copies are available for \$3 from *Media & Values*, 1962 S. Shenandoah, Los Angeles, CA 90034.



The Honolulu Boys Choir will be featured in NBC's 1985 Christmas service broadcast from Honolulu's Central Union Church, UCC, at 10 A.M. (EST) on Christmas Day. Check your local TV listings. For 33 years this program originated at the Washington Cathedral but this year NBC is opting for warmer climes and the UCC.

Executive Council Boosts Delegate Count for GS 16

The Executive Council voted to increase the total number of General Synod 16 delegates to 716.

Nine conferences will each gain one delegate. The conferences are Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Penn Central, Penn Southeast and Wisconsin.

No conferences will lose delegates under the new allocation which is based on the conference membership figures as of Dec. 31, 1984. Paragraph 171 of the UCC Constitution and Bylaws says the total number of conference delegates in any biennium shall not be fewer than 675 nor more than 725.

Obituary

Dorothy E. Orner, 94, former UC Board for World Ministries missionary to Africa for 42 years, died July 26 in Harare, Zimbabwe. Mrs. Orner taught domestic science, worked with African women and assisted her late husband, Arthur J. Orner, in supervising Mission Day Schools.

Multi-Cultural Resource Offered

A course of study designed for Filipino, Hawaiian and Samoan Christians is being developed by the UCC's Hawaiian conference in conjunction with staff of the UC Board for Homeland Ministries.

The Filipino portion of the curriculum *Tayo Na* (Let Us Go) is complete. It contains stories, legends, folk tales, music and games of Filipino-American experiences and life in the Philippines, for youth and young adults ages 12-24.

Purpose of *Tayo Na* is to help the youth direct the development of their theological thinking from their own particular backgrounds and perspectives. It is also designed to help non-Filipino church youth enhance

UC Scene

The Washington North Idaho Conference believes church growth is not a question of numbers but part of the gospel mandate. Following a UC Board for Homeland Ministries plan, the conference formed growth advisory teams for small, large and mid-size churches to take a hard look at how they go about attracting new members. Local churches were encouraged to follow their own inclinations or style for recruitment. Some churches relied on pastors to follow up on visitors, while others appointed lay teams to make house or phone calls and mail contact. The teams also discussed building accessibility to handicapped persons. Since the project began, several local churches have gained as many as 25 new members.

The American Bible Society now has a 24-hour toll-free number for bulk Bible orders. Minimum order is \$20. MasterCard and VISA accepted. Hotline number is 1-800-543-8000, operator 312.

their understanding of people from other ethnic groups.

The Hawaiian portion will be completed in 1986 and the Samoan section in 1987.

The curriculum's author is Fe Nebres who is working under the supervision of Kekapa Lee, director of the department of educational ministries and program associate for the Hawaii conference.

The Multicultural Curriculum Resources program was granted \$19,170 from unallocated Mission Memorial Improvement Funds.

A limited number of test copies are available from Ms. Nebres, Hawaii Conference, UCC, 15 Craigside Pl., Honolulu, HI, 96817.

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